

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11, and 22 are amended. In light of the following, all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and, therefore, the Applicants' attorney requests the Examiner to withdraw all outstanding rejections. **However, if after considering this response the Examiner does not allow all the claims, the Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner contact him to schedule a telephone interview to further the prosecution of the application.**

Rejection of claims 1, 7 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by de Vries, U.S. Patent 6,433,444 (hereinafter, "de Vries").

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended recites a plurality of interconnects connecting a bank of loads to first and second groups of sources such that, in a first operating mode, all sources provide power to at least one load and such that, in a second operating mode wherein one or more sources is inoperable, each load remains fully powered by one or more sources associated with the first and second groups.

For example, referring to FIGURE 2 of the patent application, in the first operating mode each source in a first group of sources 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 provides power, respectively, to loads 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58. Similarly, in that same first operating mode each source in a second group of sources 26, 27 and 28 provides power to respective loads 53 and 54; loads 55 and 56; and loads 57 and 58. In a second operating mode where, e.g., source 26 is inoperable, loads 53 and 54 remain fully powered by sources 20 and 21.

In contrast, de Vries states that in normal operation, all power requirements of the system are supplied by power modules 203-205; alternate power module 206 only supplies power to a load when a "normal" power source fails, and alternate power module 207 only supplies power to a load when multiple sources fail. [Column 3, lines 18-30.] Therefore, De Vries does not disclose a system wherein all operable power sources are utilized in normal operation.

Claim 7

Claim 7 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

Claim 22

Claim 22 as amended is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Rejection of claims 2-6 and 8-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by de Vries in view of Bobry, U.S. Patent 5,994,793 (hereinafter, "Bobry").

Claims 2-6

Claims 2-6 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from amended claim 1.

Claims 8-10

These claims are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claim 1.

Claim 11

Claim 11 as amended recites a plurality of interconnects connecting a bank of loads to a bank of sources including a group of AC sources and a group of DC sources such that, in a first operating mode, all sources provide power to at least one load and such that, in a second operating mode wherein one or more sources is inoperable, each load remains fully powered by sources associated with either the group of AC sources or the group of DC sources.

Neither de Vries nor Bobry, in combination or alone, disclose or reasonably suggest this limitation. As discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1, De Vries teaches away from the limitation by specifying "alternate" power sources that provide no power to any load before one or more "normal" power sources fail.

Bobry, while suggesting that one or more power sources may be DC sources, does not provide or reasonably suggest the missing disclosure.

Claims 12-21

These claims are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claim 11.

CONCLUSION

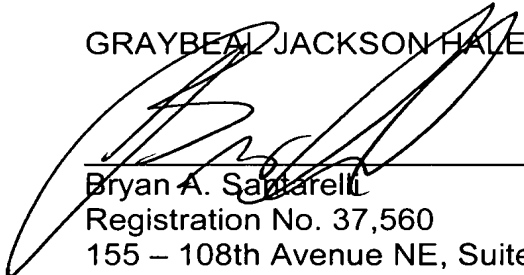
In light of the foregoing, claims 2-7, 9, and 12-21 as previously pending, and claims 1, 8, 10, 11 and 22 as amended are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to resolve the matter.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

DATED this 11th day of May, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP



Bryan A. Santarelli

Registration No. 37,560

155 – 108th Avenue NE, Suite 350

Bellevue, WA 98004-5973

(425) 455-5575 Phone

(425) 455-5575 Fax